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## FOOD PRODUCTS and

 BEVERAGES in warehouses
## at WHOLESALE, 1962



Supplement to Marketing Research Report No. 632 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DAYS' SUPPLY OF FOOD AND beverages in warehouses at wholesale

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## BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURE

This supplement provides a special tabulation of wholesale food and beverage inventory data．The data were collected in conjunction with a civil defense study conducted in 1962。 Findings of the original study are reported in Marketing Research Report No． 632 ＂Estimated Number of Days＇Supply of Food and Beverages in Ware＝ houses at Wholesale。＂

The amount of individual food products available and their locations in the channel of distribution are of interest and importance，however，not only to defense officials in planning emergency feeding programs，but also to members of the food trade．For this reason，inventory data in this supplement are presented in pounds rather than in number of days＇supply．They are listed for major food groups by wholesaler＇s kind of business and type of operation and for individual food products．

Inventories were developed from a national sample of approximately 5，000 whole－ sale establishments．They were selected from a universe of about 45，000 establish－ ments classified in the 1958 Census of Business in the following type－of－operation categories：（l）Merchant food wholesalers，including beer distributors，but excluding distributors of wine and distilled liquor；（2）manufacturers＇sales branches with stock， primarily engaged in the sale of food，including beer distributors；（3）assemblers of edible farm products；（4）nonfood merchant wholesalers and farm product assemblers reporting food sales，including wine distributors；（5）warehouses of retail multiunits engaged in the sale of food（including central administrative offices and auxiliary with stock）；and（6）food agents and brokers with stock．Establishments from each kind of business were selected on a probability basis proportionate to size，with 1958 in－ ventories as the measure of size。

A sample of wholesale firms entering business since 1958，including separately incorporated sales subsidiaries of manufacturing companies，were drawnfrom records of firms that obtained Federal Social Security employer identification numbers． Retail firms which had no warehouses in 1958 and manufacturing firms which had no sales branches in 1958 are not represented in the sample．However，new warehouses of retail firms that operated warehouses in 1958 and new sales branches of manu－ facturing concerns that operated sales branches in 1958 are represented．

Further details of methodology are covered fully in Marketing Research Report No．632．Measures of sampling error of inventory estimates are provided．They indicate the magnitude of possible error that could occur in two out of three cases as a result of using estimates derived from sampling rather than data from complete enumeration．The smaller the measure of sampling error，the closer the sample estimate is to the true total of the universe．

## RESULTS

Food inventories in wholesale warehousestotaled 6.8 billion pounds in 1962．Fruits and vegetables，including bothfresh and processed，and＂other beverages＂（soft drinks，
beer and ale，and wine）accounted for over half the total supply．The milk group，meat and meat substitutes，fats and oils，sugar and sweets，grain products，and miscellaneous （prepared foods）accounted for from 269 to 746 million pounds each（table l）。

Food stocks weretabulated for warehouses by the wholesalers＇kind of business and type of operation．The kind－ofmbiness classification generally reflects either the individual commodity or commodity group which is the primary source of the establish＝ ment＇s receipts or some mixture of different commodities which characterizes the establishment＇s business．The type－ofッoperation classification reflects the ownership of the goods sold，or character of principal transactions．

For wholesalers classified by kind of business，general line wholesalers had l．9 billion pounds of food and beverages on hand when surveyed in 1962．This represented 29 percent of total food stocks．Almost half the inventory of these wholesalers was fruits and vegetables．Other groceries and related products wholesalers accounted for 1.4 billion pounds．About half of this supply also was fruits and vegetables． Miscellaneous wholesalers inventoried 38 percent of total food stocks，or 2.5 billion pounds．Retail food warehouses are included in the classification of miscellaneous wholesalers and accounted for most of the inventory of that group．The remaining kinds－of－business wholesalers each inventoried less than 5 percent of total food stocks． However，dairy distributors and meat wholesalers，while not contributing substantially to total food stocks，inventoried as much as 43 percent of the individual food group in which they specialize．

In the type－of－operation classification，merchant food wholesalers were the most important in terms of total volume（table 2）．This group had 4.3 billion pounds of food and beverages on hand．Retail food warehouses inventoried about 1.3 billion pounds． The other three types－of－operation wholesalers each inventoried about one－half billion pounds or less of food and beverages．

Certain food products account for a significant part of the total quantity available in each major food group（table 3）．Almost onenthird of the milk group is canned milk， including evaporated and condensed。 Fresh and frozen beef，including edible beef organs and canned prepared meat products，are significant items in the meat and meat substitutes group．Lard and shortenings account for over 30 percent of fats and oils。

Inventories of fruits and vegetables are greater than inventories of the other seven food groups．In this group，five products or groups of products each account for 100 million or more pounds of the 2.6 billion pounds in inventory．They include： nonfrozen fruit juices，fruit drinks，and ciders；canned beans and bean mixturesother than green，wax，and lima；canned tomato paste，sauce，catsup，puree，pulp，and chili sauce；canned corn；and canned peaches．Potatoes and tomato juice each account for slightly under 100 million pounds．

Granulated，cube，and confectioners＇powdered sugar is the major item in the sugar and sweets group，accounting for 38 percent．Flour accounted for more than one－ third of the grain products group；cookies accounted for an additional million pounds． Canned soups and chowders and canned dog and cat food each contributed over 150 million pounds to inventories of the miscellaneous preparations group．Beer and ale in cans and bottles is the largest single item in the＂other beverages＂group with inven－ tories of 794 million pounds．Stocks onhand of this item are greater by far than stocks of any other single product or group of products audited．
Table 1.-Estimated inventory of wholesale food and beverage stocks by food group and kind of business of wholesaler, United States, June 30, 1962
(Including warehouses of retail multiunit organizations)


[^0] United States, June, 30, 1962
(Including warehouses of retail multiunit organizations)

1/ Includes wine, and distilled spirits distributors; tobacco, drugs, and other nonfood merchant wholesalers; and food agents and brokers
with stocks. $2 /$ Less than 1,000 pounds.

Table 3.--Estimated inventory of food products and beverages in warehouses of wholesalers by specified product and major food group, United States, June 30, 1962
(Including warehouses of retail multiunit organizations)


See footnote at end of table.

Table 3.--Estimated inventory of food products and beverages in warehouses of wholesalers by specified product and major food group, United States, June 30, 1962--Continued
(Including warehouses of retail multiunit organizations)

| Food group and product $\begin{array}{ll}\text { a } \\ & \vdots \\ \\ & \\ \end{array}$ | Quantity | ```Approximate coefficient of variation 1/``` |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| : |  |  |
| C. FATS AND OILS: | 1,000. 1b. | Percent |
| Lard and shortenings (bulk or packaged). | 83,184 | 12 |
| Butter.......................................................................... | 30,624 | 20 |
| Mayonnaise, salad dressings, and sandwich spreads with a mayonnaise or salad: dressing base (includes french and russian dressing, thousand island, : |  |  |
| tartar sauce, etc.). | 46,279 | 16 |
| Margarine.................................................................... | 59,387 | 15 |
| Salad and cooking oils (including olive oil, corn oil, oils made from vege- : tables or animal base).............................................................................. | 49,599 | 14 |
| Total. | 269,073 |  |
| D. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: |  |  |
| Fresh oranges................................................................ | 72,164 | 23 |
| Fresh citrus fruits other than or | 36,777 |  |
| Fresh apples................................................... . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . : | 17,310 | 63 |
| Fresh bananas. | 53,403 | 46 |
| Fresh peaches, apricots, and nectari | 68,717 | 46 |
| Fresh grapes, berries, and cherries | 1,581 | 70 |
| Fresh melons.. | 83,231 | 37 |
| Fresh pears, persirmons, pineapples, plums and prunes, avocados | 7,075 | 58 |
| Nuts, not salted, roasted or blanched (including nuts in shell).............. | 2,255 | 46 |
| Fresh turnips, parsnips, rutabagas, and beets................................. |  | 70 |
| Fresh white and sweet potatoes. | 97,294 | 18 |
| Fresh cabbage. | 19,925 | 63 |
| Fresh carrots. | 8,135 | 46 |
| Fresh green and dry onio | 21,192 | 27 |
| Fresh tomatoes. | 703 | 70 |
| Fresh lettuce.................................................................. | 17,834 | 80 |
| Fresh peas, cauliflower, broccoli, spinach and other cooking greens, eggplant, mushrooms, okra, parsley, pumpkin, rhubarb, celery, cucumbers, green: and wax beans, peppers, squash, artichokes, asparagus, lima beans, and |  |  |
| Fresh sweet corn | 11,521 | 53 70 |
| Canned and bottled apples, applesauce, and apple but | 55,759 | 26 |
| Canned and bottled apricots.o................ | 25,296 | 37 |
| Canned and bottled berries, except cranberries............................... | 1,517 | 46 |
| Canned and bottled cherries, except maraschino | 4,617 | 70 |
| Canned and bottled cranberries and cranberry sauce. | 6,070 | 27 |
| Canned and bottled orange and grapefruit segments and citrus salad..........: | 18,880 | 31 |
| Canned and bottled mixed fruits (fruits for salads, fruit cocktail). | 59,043 | 22 |
| Canned and bottled peaches..................................................... | 105,361 | 19 |
| Canned and bottled pears...... | 47,692 | 29 |
| Canned and bottled plums and prune | 13,969 | 31 |
| Canned and, bottled pineapple segments or chunks and figs | 68,078 | 20 |
| Canned and bottled asparagus.... | 17,604 | 58 |
| Canned and bottled fresh lima beans | 70,612 | 31 |
| Canned and bottled green and wax beans | 54,625 | 37 |
| Canned and bottled beets............. | 24,167 | 58 |
| Canned and bottled corn.. | 111,546 | 17 |
| Canned and bottled carrots and mixed vegetables. | 21,180 | 25 |
| Canned and bottled onions, pumpkin, squash, okra, and hominy................. | 27,168 | 29 |
| Canned and bottled peas....................................................... | 68,010 | 17 |
| Canned and bottled spinach....................................................... | 6,633 | 46 |
| Canned and bottled tomatoes (excluding tomato products such as catsup, sauce, paste, puree, etc.)............................................................ | : 91,453 | 37 |
| Canned and bottled beans other than green, wax, or lima (includes baked beans, pork and beans, etc.). | - 192,164 | 15 |

See footnote at end of table.

Table 3.--Estimated inventory of food products and beverages in warehouses of wholesalers by specified product and major food group, United States, June 30, 1962--Continued
(Including warehouses of retail multiunit organizations)


Table 3.--Estimated inventory of food products and beverages in warehouses of wholesalers by specified product and major food group, United States, June 30, 1962...-Continued
(Including warehouses of retail multiunit organizations)

| Food group and product |
| :--- |
|  |

1/ All sampling errors in this column are in the form of coefficients of variation at the one standard deviation level and provide only approximate measures of reliability for the commodities noted.


[^0]:     saiers. 2/ Less than 1,000 pounds.

